

**DURHAM CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
Office of Economic and Workforce Development Conference Room  
Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 3:15pm.

**Members Present:**

X Zoila Airall  
X Daniel Ellison  
X Sherry DeVries  
   Pamela Green  
X Mark Hough  
X Medina Johnson  
X Frank Konhaus  
   Renee Leverty  
x Ashley Mattheis  
X Cynthia Mebane-Watts  
X Chris Ogden  
X Lou Rollins

**OEWD Staff Present:**

   Grace Dzidzienyo  
X Peter Coyle

**Also present:** Angela Lee

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Vice Chair Cynthia Mebane-Watts called the meeting to order at 3:20pm.

Sherry DeVries moved to approve the March 19, 2014 Board meeting minutes. Dan Ellison seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, with corrections.

Mebane-Watts reported that the City Council has appointed Chris Ogden as the Board's representative on the Durham Performing Arts Center Oversight Committee. She thanked Ogden for serving.

Mebane-Watts discussed the relationship between the Board and the Public Art Committee and suggested that the Board had moved into areas that should have been Committee responsibilities. She noted the importance of maintaining the balance and relationship between the two bodies.

Mebane-Watts led a discussion of potential future projects from available Cultural Master Plan implementation funds. She noted that there is approximately \$8,500 available in non-restricted funds from City funding and as well as County funding linked to specific purposes. The Board reviewed the available funding. Peter Coyle explained the sources and allowable uses of the funds. DeVries suggested that the Board use funding available to sponsor fundraising workshops for cultural organizations could be a component of a capacity building project from cultural organizations and suggested that a partnership with the Triangle Community Foundation might be advisable.

Frank Konhaus suggested some possible public art uses. The Board discussed ideas. Dan Ellison introduced a discussion of a project by Duke Energy to mask transformers with decorative screening designed by artists, a project he initiated in discussions with Duke Energy. DeVries noted that the Bull City Connector Bus Shelter Project is continuing and needs resources to add additional artist-designed shelters.

DeVries suggested that the Board should look at projects to celebrate and enhance Latino culture in Durham. Several ideas were suggested by Board members.

Lou Rollins discussed the “On my own time” projects being done in other cities, a program involving artists and businesses to celebrate artistic activities of business employees. Dallas and Syracuse have good programs on this model.

Coyle suggested that the Board look at programs to serve jail inmates and ex-offenders.

DeVries made a motion to create a funding initiative ad hoc planning committee. Ashley Mattheis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mebane- Watts asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. DeVries agreed to chair the committee, with Zoila Airall, Mebane-Watts and Mattheis as additional members.

Ellison suggested that the Board look at a project to serve people with disabilities. Medina Johnson suggested sponsoring a play performed with sign language for the deaf. Dan Ellison made a motion to establish an ad hoc committee on cultural initiatives for people with disabilities. Mark Hough seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Dan Ellison was appointed to chair the committee, with Rollins and Johnson.

Chris Ogden updated the Board on the marketing/app project. He also noted a project in Britain to record every living poet in the UK and suggested that the Board cooperate with Liberty Arts to record interviews with artists in the Bull City Sculpture Show. Coyle noted that Liberty Arts is doing some documentation of this kind, and suggested that the History Hub oral history recording project should be explored. Ogden reported that Public Art Committee member Kathy Bartlett has developed a list of Durham public art pieces and will be presenting that to the Public Art Committee in time for it to be distributed during the Bull City Sculpture Show.

Mark Hough reported that the City Council approved the location of the Civil Rights Mural on the west wall of the Convention Center. He discussed the plans to establish a purchase prize recommendation committee for the Bull City Sculpture Show.

Coyle reminded members that 6 board members terms will expire on June 30. Three of those members are not eligible to serve an additional term. The other three, if they choose, can reapply. He urged members to encourage applications for the Board, which are available from the City Web site and are due to the City Clerk by May 23.

DeVries updated the Board on the SmART Grant process. An RFQ has been released to identify consultants. The application deadline is May. 2.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next meeting: May 21, 3:15 pm at DCVB